

The Gant County Fiscal Court met in Regular Session on Monday, March 20, 2006, at 7:00 P.M. at the Grant County Courthouse in Williamstown, Kentucky 41097, with Richard Austin, Magistrate 1st District, Present; Patricia Conrad, Magistrate 2nd District, Present; Kenny Messer, Magistrate 3rd District, Present, and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, Present and Presiding.

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Judge Link opened in prayer and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Those present were: Bernard Mardis-Cable TV, Williamstown Mayor Glenn Caldwell, Councilwoman Helen Ruth Threlkeld, Councilman Bob Perry, Councilman Bill Hutchison, Doug Beckham, Crystal Fryman, James Perkins, Deputy Sheriff Troy Hagedorn, Jamie Baker Nantz-Grant County News, Wade Gutman, Jerry Stone and Janice Stone.

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Motion of Kenny Messer and seconded by Patricia Conrad it is hereby ordered to approve the minutes of the March 06, 2006, meeting as presented.

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1st District, votes Yes; Patricia Conrad, Magistrate 2nd District, votes Yes; Kenny Messer, Magistrate 3rd District, votes Yes; and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, votes Yes.

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Judge Link presented for review and action the 2005-2006 Fiscal Year Fire Contracts with the City of Williamstown and the Williamstown Volunteer Fire Department and the City of Dry Ridge and the Dry Ridge Volunteer Fire Department and Ambulance. They are as follows:

Motion of Patricia Conrad and seconded by Kenny Messer it is hereby ordered to approve the 2005-2006 Fiscal Year Fire Contracts between Grant County and the City of Williamstown and the Williamstown Volunteer Fire Department and the City of Dry Ridge and the Dry Ridge Volunteer Fire Department and Ambulance as presented, and to

further authorize the Judge/Executive to sign said contracts on behalf of the county.

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1st District, votes Yes; Patricia Conrad, Magistrate 2nd District, votes Yes; Kenny Messer, Magistrate 3rd District, votes Yes; and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, votes Yes.

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Judge Link presented for review and approval the Claims in the General Expense Fund, Road Fund, Jail Fund and L.G.E.A. Fund for the month of March, 2006, along with the transfers needed to pay said claims. He asked if there were any questions about them.

Motion of Patricia Conrad and seconded by Kenny Messer it is hereby ordered to approve Claims No. 01-0997 thru 01-1044 in the amount of \$172,018.45 paid out of the General Expense Fund; Claims No. 02-0321 thru 02-0330 in the amount of \$5,342.44 paid out of the Road Fund; Claims No. 03-393 thru 03-0423 in the amount of \$36,099.85 paid out of the Jail Fund, and Claim No. 04-0000010 in the amount of \$500.00 paid out of the L.G.E.A. Fund for the month of March, 2006, along with the transfers presented to pay said claims.

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1st District, votes Yes; Patricia Conrad, Magistrate 2nd District, votes Yes; Kenny Messer, Magistrate 3rd District, votes Yes; and Hon. Darrell L. Link, County Judge/Executive, votes Yes.

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Judge Link presented for review and action the Recommendation of the Grant County Planning Commission for a Zone Change from Agricultural One to Residential One E on a 104.5442 Acre tract of land located on the West side of US 25 and on the North side of Bannister Pike, Grant County, Kentucky, owned by applicant Gene Evans. It is as follows: He also presented for a first reading Ordinance No. 02-2006-582 relating to an Amendment to the Grant County Zoning Map for applicant Gene Evans, along with the Notice to run in the local paper showing second reading to be on Monday, April 03,

2006, at 7:00 P.M. or as soon thereafter as possible, if approved. They are as follows:

He also presented an Amendment to the Development Agreement which he updated on as a result of the discussion held on this Zone Change at the last Caucus meeting. He also presented a letter from the City of Williamstown, and two letters from the City of Dry Ridge regarding this Zone Change.

Motion of Kenny Messer and seconded by Richard Austin it is hereby ordered to accept the Recommendation of the Grant County Planning Commission for a Zone Change for applicant Gene Evans as presented with the changes that have been added in the Amendment to the Development Agreement as presented, and to further approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 02-2006-582 relating to an Amendment to the Grant County Zoning Map for said applicant, along with the Notice to run in the local paper as presented.

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1st District, votes Yes; Patricia Conrad, Magistrate 2nd District, votes Yes; Kenny Messer, Magistrate 3rd District, votes Yes; and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, Abstains.

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Judge Link presented for review the Applications submitted for the Area Development Funds (ADF) for the 2005-2006 Fiscal Year. Only one was received and it was from the Grant County Fiscal Court on behalf of the Parks and Recreation Board for the Jonesville Park Project. It as follows: Judge Link updated on this Application.

Motion of Patricia Conrad and seconded by Kenny Messer it is hereby ordered to approve the Application of the Grant County Fiscal Court on behalf of the Parks and Recreation Board for the ADF funds for the 2005-2006 fiscal year as presented, and to authorize the Judge/Executive to submit said application to the Northern Kentucky Area

Development District for approval by their Board.

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1st District, votes Yes; Patricia Conrad, Magistrate 2nd District, votes Yes; Kenny Messer, Magistrate 3rd District, votes Yes; and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, votes Yes.

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At this time Judge Link welcomed Mayor Glenn Caldwell and the Williamstown City Council who were present to discuss the new Grant County Judicial Center that we hope to build here in downtown Williamstown. He first gave an update on the process that the Administrative Office of the Courts require for this Project. He said that the Memorandum of Understanding has been approved and signed. He said they have given a pretty large Rule Book and set of rules to go by. The reason they identified some of the rules in that is they found in the past, and we usually learn from our past mistakes, is that sometimes processes are influenced, sometimes politics try to enter into the process and tries to dictate the outcome, so they have provided rules that will disallow that from happening. In the rule book the AOC's General Manager will sign off on the site and will recommend the site for purchase, but he said that where we are in the plan, we have a Capital Plan from the Court of Justice. The Project has been authorized for funding by the General Assembly. The Supreme Court Chief of Justice has identified a Project Development Board that will be made up of people and he named the various individuals who serve on this Board, some by their positions as elected officials, some from the Administrative Office of the Courts, and some as Appointments as required in the Plan. They are as follows: Judge Steven Bates-Circuit Judge, Darrell Link-Grant County Judge/Executive and Chairman, Shirley Wilson-Grant County Circuit Court Clerk, Richard Austin-Fiscal Court Appointee, Steve Howe-Grant County Bar Association Appointee, Ed Crockett who serves at the pleasure of Melinda Wheeler who is an AOC

representative, and then Ed Britton sits on there sometimes in place of Garland Van Hook, and sometimes Mr. Van Hook comes to the meeting. He said that it is Garland who will actually make the decision on the site, but they have given a blue print on which to follow and he feels they have followed that to date. The Project Development Board has reviewed several sites and one has been selected. At the February 09th PDB Board meeting when he was in Washington and Judge Bates Chaired the meeting it was recommended that he obtain appraisals on the site. He explained that the site is where the Grant County District Extension Building is located along with two properties owned by Judy Gaines on either side of that building. He stated that he also was required to hire an appraiser from an MAI Certified Appraiser list provided by the AOC, and that he hired Schoepf /Associates, Inc. out of Ft. Thomas, Kentucky. They were to have this appraisal at the March PDB Board Meeting but it was not ready; we are still waiting on the appraisal. He said he was following their request and understood the Mayor had sent a letter to the City Council requesting they come tonight to talk to the Court and the Court wanted to give them the opportunity to do that and if they can answer any questions; they will try to do so. He then asked Mayor Caldwell to address the Court and said they would try to answer their questions and concerns. Mayor Caldwell explained that the City Council asked to come up here just to reiterate the three or four Resolutions and various communications they had submitted to the Fiscal Court over the last three or four years, and said that this Judicial Building is important to the City of Williamstown also. He stated that we all realize that the decision that is going to be made is going to probably be for a 100 year building. Going back to their purpose he said when the City elected to do condemnation proceedings on the old Hotel Donald

property, that was thought to be a possible site location in the future for the Justice Center with the utilization of the Parking lot in the back. It was discussed by City Council and they said to send Fiscal Court a letter that they were willing to work with the Court and give them any property. He said that is a location that they got in their mind that they would like to be considered. He understands the decision the Committee has to make. He then questioned Judge Link on what he had said about who would make the final decision and asked "Will the final decision on the site location be made by the Committee or will it be made by the Fiscal Court?" Judge Link said "Actually neither". He clarified this by saying the PDB Board has been given a rule book to follow and they have followed it. They will select the site on which it will be built. They will then recommend the site to the AOC General Manager Garland Van Hook. Mr. Van Hook has to sign off on the site. He represents the people in Frankfort and he will recommend the site for purchase. He said going back to not necessarily Fiscal Court, because he does not want Mayor Caldwell to go back thinking they won't have a part in it, what this Court will do is set up a Corporation much like the Public Properties Corporation we now have, where we are able to borrow and build, and we have to do that by following the KRS. The Court will set up the Corporation and that corporation will actually purchase the site, but they will purchase the site that is only recommended by the AOC General Manager Garland Van Hook. Judge Link stated that he had printed the entire Chapter on Site Procurement which they could review. It was then given to Mayor Caldwell tonight. Judge Link informed Mayor Caldwell that he realized that the City of Williamstown has cooperated fully with the Hotel Donald site and made it available to us if needed. He updated that the first letter sent was an offer for the Court to purchase that at cost and

what the City had in it in demolition, and they later sent a letter offering the property and didn't talk about cost which made him think they would make it available to the Court if we wanted to build there. Judge Link said that he has understood clearly all along that this is a potential site and he thinks the PDB Board has considered that site fully, along with the other sites, the two on Paris Street. It is his understanding that the day they made a decision and instructed him to get an appraisal on this one, that they walked all four sites and it was in their unanimous opinion that this one had more strengths. It would provide a wonderful entrance into downtown Williamstown that would sit up high enough that they could build a dome where that would be one of the first things you would see as you entered into town. It was close enough to this current facility that met the spirit of the law. He said that it is also in AOC's Play Book that we build as near to this facility as possible. He explained that he knew there has been a lot of discussion about it being built on Barnes Road, but said that Barnes Road is not an option in the Play Book to be considered. It is not an option for these guys to consider. The only way it can be an option is they would have to review every site that has been offered and he feels there is some very good sites that would work including the one the City is offering, the Hotel Donald on the corner, but they would have to eliminate every site. They would have to say absolutely, none of the sites that have been offered thus far will work, therefore we have to go out of what we think is downtown Williamstown. He said quite frankly he does not see that as being the case. He thinks that we have four sites that could be workable here in the downtown area. He knows it is good debate and causes controversy, but he just doesn't see that as becoming a reality. He may be proved wrong over the next year but he hopes that is not the case and he feels the City of Williamstown

joins him in that hope, and Mayor Caldwell said “That’s right”. Magistrate Austin also spoke on the building next door, and said that when Judge Howard was here, the building discussed was smaller and that this building is now bigger. Judge Link said this one was now 45,000 square feet which is probably 20,000 more than the Courthouse. Magistrate Austin said he feels that they took a look at our growth over the last five years and said that building won’t meet our needs over the next 75 years. He feels that is the best location as far as joining the Courthouse but in looking at it over the next 75 years it would not be. He said that there was talk of possible expansion and what option that would be. He said it would mean taking a couple more of the businesses, and the AOC said they don’t want to have to tear down half of the town to build our building. They didn’t like the Railroad tracks as far as the sound which will still be an issue up here, and the parking was a problem. It may work for now but later on... so there was several things they kicked around for several days that led them to that site down there. He said that they liked that site better and hopefully the appraisals will come back so they don’t have to condemn that property and take it. He is not interested in doing that. The Court would have to do it if it has to be done, and he said that the Committee can’t condemn the property and take it, it has to come back to the Court and hopefully that won’t happen. He said he was the one four or five years ago that said build on Barnes Road because that was the safest area for society. It would cut down on transportation and cut down on security. This is not a real factor now, transporting. Security could be. If the State by some slim change takes the Jails over they could elect not to want our facility and house prisoners some place else, and if that were to happen you have that Justice Center sitting right up there in the middle of a Commercial Zone. He said going back to what Judge

Link said and according to AOC standards, they want it built down town if at all possible, and they said they were pleased with the locations we had to choose from, because he said a lot of times we don't have that choice and basically they had to go in and put that building on a postage stamp size lot which would somewhat be like this over here. He said when you do that there is nothing else you can do. There are a lot of variables in the way that things play out. This is a \$14,000,000.00 project and we are hoping it will make a good statement for downtown Williamstown. He said he would be the first one to admit that he doesn't know what it will lend to the viable economy of downtown Williamstown. There is still going to be people coming and going; there will still be Court. How much money it is going to leave in downtown Williamstown he is sure it will be some, but there is still going to be traffic and hopefully this will add to the revitalization of Williamstown itself. Judge Link spoke on the business that may be generated from those customers in the Court System as far as retail purchasing or spending their money downtown. He would be hard pressed to come up with some kind of dollar figure, but he thinks one of the things it does, and he said that he is a tenant of the downtown Williamstown and comes to work here every day and he hopes the Court has made some improvements to this Building that is about 80 years old and we are quiet proud of, that it adds to the aesthetic value of downtown Williamstown, and he feels that they have. He said that one thing it does when a government entity like ourselves invests in the downtown area, it says to others that downtown Williamstown is worth investing in and that we are investing in it for a long term period, and therefore, you should have the confidence to do likewise. Every once in a while you have to stand up and be leaders and he hopes that they are doing that on the City of Williamstown's behalf. He hopes that is

the way it is perceived and embraced by everyone. He stated that he respected them for being here tonight and respected the jobs they do and he wanted to give each one of them an opportunity to address the Court. He asked Councilwoman Helen Ruth Threlkeld to do so but she declined. Councilman Bill Hutchison said he has been talking to several people here in the last few days and has gained a lot more knowledge since they asked to come before the Court. He stated he appreciates the opportunity given to them to show their concern, that Yes, there are some factors in making, whether it makes Williamstown a better city or not or the economics of it all. He feels they just need to support and show the Court that they would just like to have it here because if you keep losing buildings or entities in the City, and he thinks being a county seat, and he appreciates what Judge Link said about being a tenant of the City, they respect that and thanked the Court for being here and showing their support to this Project. Judge Link stated that Bill was on the Fiscal Court when Judge Howard had gotten 1.5 million dollars to add to our woes and the AOC said you all need more room there at your Courthouse and gave us a million and half dollars, and asked them to build an Annex on the back of this Courthouse. We took a look at that and were hard pressed because it is hard to come by money. Judge Howard worked hard to come up with that million and half dollars but the entire Fiscal Court at that time said, Thank You, but No, Thank You. We sent a million and half dollars back to Frankfort and said it is not sufficient. It will not meet what we want to become a reality. We need a new Judicial Courthouse that will serve not only today but many years down the road. Judge Link reported that Mr. Van Hook has said several times that he respected the fact that we did not take this money just to fix a short term problem. As a result we got right back on their list and were able to obtain this

fourteen. three million dollars that will end up hopefully being a wonderful icon to this community. He said in regards to this location there is another offspring benefit of what has been decided this far if it does become the site, especially for the taxpayers if they do select that site as the final selection. We will purchase the Extension Board and it will be torn down, but it will give the Extension Board an opportunity to achieve something they have wanted to do for a long time and that is to build a new Extension Building that will serve the taxpayers of this community better, and they too will have a choice as to where they will do that. While we are lobbying, he thinks we should all lobby them, to do that in the county seat. Obviously they could go outside of Williamstown. If you look at the Center from a population standpoint it could be North of Williamstown now. He said that when the Court did the Magisterial Districts they identified that 14,000 + people lived North of Williamstown and 7,000 was Williamstown South, and that is how Magistrate Austin ended up with such a large geographical area, so if we try to go upon the Center for the Population base, it would maybe be North, but when you from a transportation standpoint try to identify where the Center of the county is, then it probably brings us back to the county seat, and shouldn't it be as equally accessible to the people in Corinth as to the people in Crittenden. He said you can argue things any way you want and spin it any way you possibly can to make your point, and we will be prepared to do that he is sure. Councilman Bob Perry spoke and thanked the Court for the time allotted to them tonight and said he is glad to see that we have hopefully picked a site in the downtown and pledged his support as a Councilman to help in any way he could to get the job done and whenever we need it, to call on him, he would be happy to do what he can. Judge Link thanked him and said as long as we pull together we will be

able to bring the cows home. He then asked if anyone else wanted to speak in regards to the site for the Judicial Center. No one did. Judge Link updated on something else that is going to take place and that we are going to be forced with, and said again, we will go back to the site that the City is offering here. He said that should that become the site for the Judicial Center, we have an opportunity to pursue a \$500,000.00 grant again that the County is willing to lead to build a new building that will serve the Community Action Commission. The money is available at the State. The county is willing to make the application on their behalf and they can build a building. This building serves a lot of the poor and indigent and economically deprived in our community and currently is housed in the old Hulett Building, and they don't have very good quarters over there and are also pressed in there and there are other people in there getting service and it is quite a depressing place. He stated the people that they serve are deserving of a better building, a newer building. He stated that he needs one Volunteer to help review and select an Architect and help make application for this half million dollars, and that would be done in his office tomorrow at 2:00 P.M. and requested one of them to be present during this discussion. He said that could be a building that we could build on the second site and he is looking at the City because it could be in an area downtown that possibly may not end up being the site for the Judicial Center, but it is an investment in the City, and he would hopefully like to find a spirit of cooperation in pursuing that. He has laid it out there and if they are interested he would like for one of them to show up and volunteer. He informed Doug Beckham that he would be a good Volunteer and Mayor Caldwell agreed. He stated he would be there at 2:00 P.M. the next day.

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Judge Link presented for review the Canine Control Officer's Report for February 2006.

No action is required. It is as follows:

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Judge Link presented a letter from Thomas R. Nienaber, Attorney for Bullock Pen Water District, regarding Compensation for Commissioners serving on the Bullock Pen Water District Board. It is as follows: He also stated that Boone County Fiscal Court has already approved this Resolution. He then presented for review a Resolution Setting the Salaries for said Commissioners and requested a Motion to approve the Resolution as submitted. It is as follows: He stated that the Fiscal Court does not pay these Salaries but they are paid thru revenue generated by the District approved by the Public Service Commission.

Motion of Kenny Messer and seconded by Richard Austin Be It Hereby Resolved to approve the Resolution of the Grant County Fiscal Court Setting Salaries for the Bullock Pen Water District Commissioners, Chairman and Treasurer as presented.

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1st District, votes Yes; Patricia Conrad, Magistrate 2nd District, votes Yes; Kenny Messer, Magistrate 3rd District, votes Yes; and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, votes Yes.

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Judge Link presented for review and approval the Agreement between the Grant County, Kentucky, Fiscal Court (including Grant County Public Properties Corporation), and Ross, Sinclair & Associates, Inc. for providing Financial Advisory Services for the new Grant County Judicial Center. He said it has been signed already by the Administrative Office of the Courts. It is as follows: Judge Link updated that the AOC had recommended that another Corporation be set up to take care of this issue and said that it would not be run thru the Public Properties Corporation that we now have in order

to keep those funds separate. He then asked Attorney Ed Lorenz if signing this Agreement would interfere with that action. Mr. Lorenz after reviewing it, updated on this and responded that he did not foresee this being a problem and said that it was okay for the Fiscal Court to take action on this as presented.

Motion of Patricia Conrad and seconded by Kenny Messer it is hereby ordered to approve the Agreement between the Grant County Fiscal Court (including Grant County Public Properties Corporation) and any other corporation created by the Fiscal Court, and Ross, Sinclaire & Associates, Inc. for providing Financial Advisory Services for the new Grant County Judicial Center.

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1st District, votes Yes; Patricia Conrad, Magistrate 2nd District, votes Yes; Kenny Messer, Magistrate 3rd District, votes Yes; and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, votes Yes.

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Judge Link presented the County Treasurer's Monthly Cash Position Report for February 2006. No action is required. It is as follows:

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Judge Link opened up discussion for the "Good of the County". He said that anyone could address the Court at this time. He updated on the presentation made at the Grant County Chamber meeting held this morning by the Kentucky Department of Veterans regarding the Veteran's National Cemetery. He said that the design is completed and they presented that for review. It has a walking trail around it and will be a national shrine that will be very respectful and will be of great value to this community and to the many Veterans that have served their country. It will be something that everyone will be proud of. Magistrate Conrad also updated on the slides that were shown and said each one is different than other cemeteries in other areas. She said it will be a beautiful

site and one the City of Williamstown and the county will be proud of. She said it will have an Administration Building and Mausoleum where caskets will lay in State as well as other buildings. Judge Link said it will be a seven million dollar investment made by the federal government. It will be done in three phases, and construction will start in 2007 and should be finished in 2008. Judge Link stated that not only will it serve our Veterans, but it will also serve the dependents of the Veterans as well at no cost. He said we should lobby our Congressman for more funding. They typically request around \$50,000,000.00 every year and the budget coming out of Washington now only has \$32,000,000.00, so we are hoping for an increase in funding. Congressman Reynolds sits on this Committee and he also has some legislation currently that he submitted that will provide for new signs on the Interstate exit that demonstrate a National Cemetery is located in that area, so he thinks we will have an opportunity to make him understand how important this is to us and maybe we will be able to get that funding increased. Magistrate Conrad stated that local people will be hired to maintain the cemetery and she thinks all the buildings will be done in the first phase. Judge Link updated that the current State budget is still pretty much the same. Our Transportation Projects are still in there. They did slip the dates on a few Projects, but yet they are still there, so hopefully we are hoping as it continues thru the other end at the Capitol, the Senators are now viewing the budget, that they will stay that way. If it goes into conference that is when sometimes you don't know what will happen but he will continue to shepherd those projects thru. Magistrate Conrad also updated on the conference held at the Grant County High School by Silas House regarding his book, Clay's Quilt, and said that she really enjoyed it very much and would encourage all to participate in this and take advantage of

it if this is done again in the future. Magistrate Messer commented on all that it looks like the City of Williamstown is getting, the Judicial Center, the Community Services Center and the Veteran's National Cemetery, but stated that they should not center just on the new Judicial Center. He stated that the Court has a hand in it, but not as much as you may think they do. They give a lot of input but don't actually have the final say and it is not our money. He suggested they look at what else that is coming and try to look at the downtown Williamstown from Council's standpoint and any funds they have available to go, to improve it upon their own, to make changes in the downtown, to go out in other words, look at what is downtown and build from this to match other things that will be around it if any way possible for the City to do that, to purchase existing buildings that are available and do something with it; improve it; upgrade them yourselves. Other towns do, others much like Williamstown do that, towns that may be going into a lull has been affected by outside things, malls, you name it. It is around us all. He told them to make a leap yourself and do something about it. Perhaps the Court could help. He would be glad to help with what time he has left and would be willing to help in any way possible to see that happen. It all comes down to you got to help yourself. You crunch; you ask for funds and everything you can, but it ultimately comes down to what you guys and us can do really, about downtown Williamstown. He doesn't like to see what has happened to downtown Williamstown. He grew up here, but things go thru revolving doors and maybe it will all come back and it will look different when all this is said and done and what we can do to influence that we have to. He told them to be Creative. Judge Link asked Mayor Caldwell if they had gotten a response from the Transportation Cabinet in regards to their Resolution on the confusion on the Road Signage, and Mayor Caldwell

said he has not heard anything to date. Judge Link said he guessed we would just have to wait for a Response from them.

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Judge Link reminded Fiscal Court that the next Caucus meeting will be on March 27, 2006, at 5:30 P.M., and that the next meeting of the Fiscal Court will be on Monday, April 03, 2006, at 7:00 P.M.

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Motion of Richard Austin and seconded by Patricia Conrad it is hereby ordered to Adjourn until Monday, April 03, 2006, at 7:00 P.M.

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1st District, votes Yes; Patricia Conrad, Magistrate 2nd District, votes Yes; Kenny Messer, Magistrate 3rd District, votes Yes; and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, votes Yes.

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GRANT COUNTY JUDGE/EXECUTIVE